

REMARKS

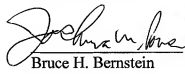
In the outstanding Office Action, claims 15-21 were indicated to be allowable. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-14 will have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. The herein-contained amendments should not be considered an indication of Applicants' acquiescence as to the propriety of any outstanding rejection. Rather, Applicants have amended the claims in order to advance prosecution and obtain early allowance of claims.

At least in view of the herein-contained amendments, each of the outstanding objections and rejections to claims other than claims 15-21 have been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request an indication of the allowance of claims 15-21.

The amendments to the claims made in this amendment have not been made to overcome the prior art, and thus, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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